Williams Research Center

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Explore centuries of **Gulf South culture** with unparalleled access to rare documents, art, and historic treasures.

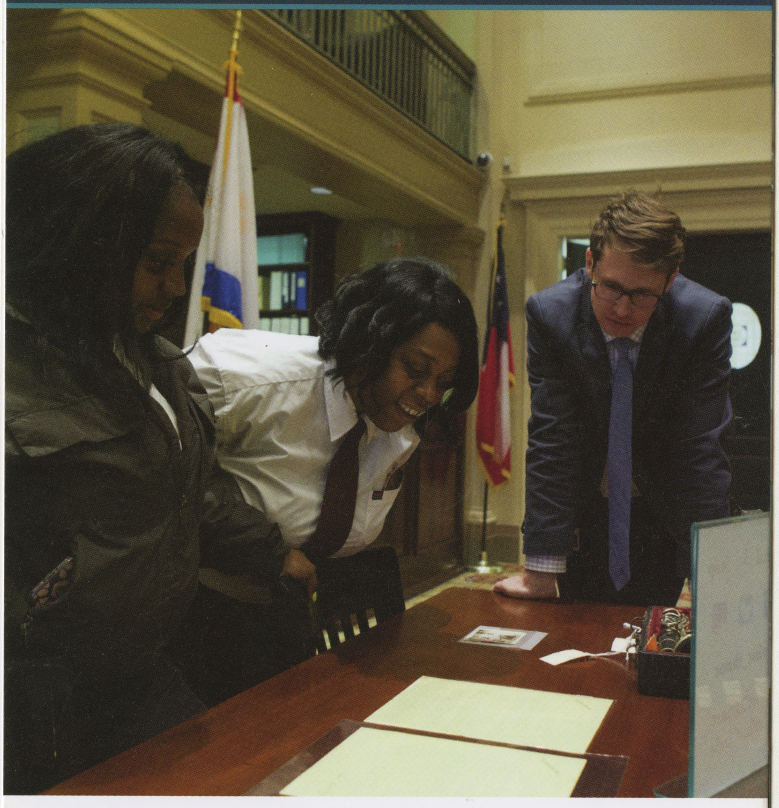
The Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC) first opened to the public in 1970, with a small reading room specializing in maps and manuscripts related to early New Orleans history. As our institution grew, our collecting interests expanded to include Louisiana photography, jazz, architecture, and politics.

Since 1996, the Williams Research Center, housed in a majestic Beaux Arts building, has provided students, scholars, and history buffs alike with free access to HNOC's extensive holdings. Recent and current collecting initiatives include LGBTQ history, coastal Louisiana and the environment, and the Vietnamese American experience. Visitors can access these materials with assistance from our knowledgeable staff or independently through the online catalog.

POPULAR HOLDINGS INCLUDE

- Materials from the Battle of New Orleans and the Civil War, including maps, personal and official records, rare books, artworks, and memorabilia associated with the conflict
- Mardi Gras ephemera, including costumes, float sketches, newspaper bulletins, programs, and invitations, representing communities across New Orleans
- Oral history collections that preserve diverse personal narratives of Louisianians
- Photographic collections from artists such as Jules L. Cahn, Jay Dearborn Edwards, Charles L. Franck, Clarence John Laughlin, Michael P. Smith, and Harold Baquet
- Resources for genealogical research, including city directories, locally published newspapers, federal census material, and the Vieux Carré Survey, a database of French Quarter properties
- Tennessee Williams materials consisting of a diverse assemblage of books, unpublished manuscripts, playbills, letters, photographs, and much more
- An extensive collection of jazz memorabilia that traces the development of jazz in New Orleans, including the William Russell Jazz Collection, musical instruments, records, sheet music, photographs, and books
- Materials related to colonial Louisiana, including French and Spanish resources, a land grants database, and a variety of manuscript collections

Visit the research center or browse the online catalog to **start your adventure in history.**



VISITING THE WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER

Visitors may come to our reading room in the heart of the French Quarter, which is open to the public at no charge during regular business hours. Appointments are recommended but not required. To schedule an appointment, email **reference@hnoc.org**.

ONLINE ACCESS

If you are unable to visit the Williams Research Center in person, or if you would like to familiarize yourself with our holdings, visit our online catalog at **catalog.hnoc.org**.

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